

AMENDMENTS TO THE DRAWINGS:

A replacement drawing is submitted that includes
Figures 1 and 2.

REMARKS

The application has been amended to place the application in condition for allowance at the time of the next Official Action.

The specification is amended to make editorial changes therein, including those noted in the Official Action.

A replacement drawing is submitted on a page that includes Figures 1 and 2. In Figure 1, reference numeral 1 is added denoting the prosthesis as disclosed on page 3, line 21. No change is made to Figure 2. The above-noted change is the only change and is believed not to introduce new matter.

A substitute Abstract of the Disclosure is provided on an accompanying separate sheet to address the objection to the abstract noted in the Official Action.

Claims 1-7 were previously pending in the application. New claim 8 is added. Therefore, claims 1-8 are presented for consideration.

Claims 1-5 were rejected as anticipated by NUNEZ et al. 5,800,514. That rejection is respectfully traversed.

Claim 1 is amended and recites a main conduit having first and second ends. At least one intermediate tract of the main conduit is subdivided between the first and second ends into a plurality of smaller conduits located parallel one to another.

By way of example, Figure 1 of the present application, reproduced below, shows a main conduit 2 having first and second

ends, left side 2 and right side 2. At least one intermediate tract or portion of the main conduit 2 is subdivided between the two ends into a plurality of smaller conduits 3 that are located parallel one to another.

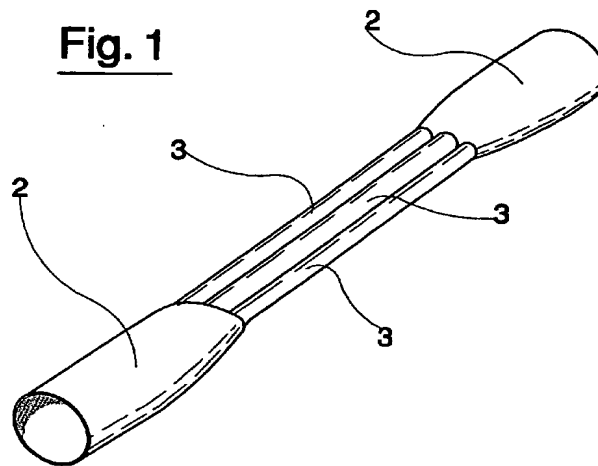
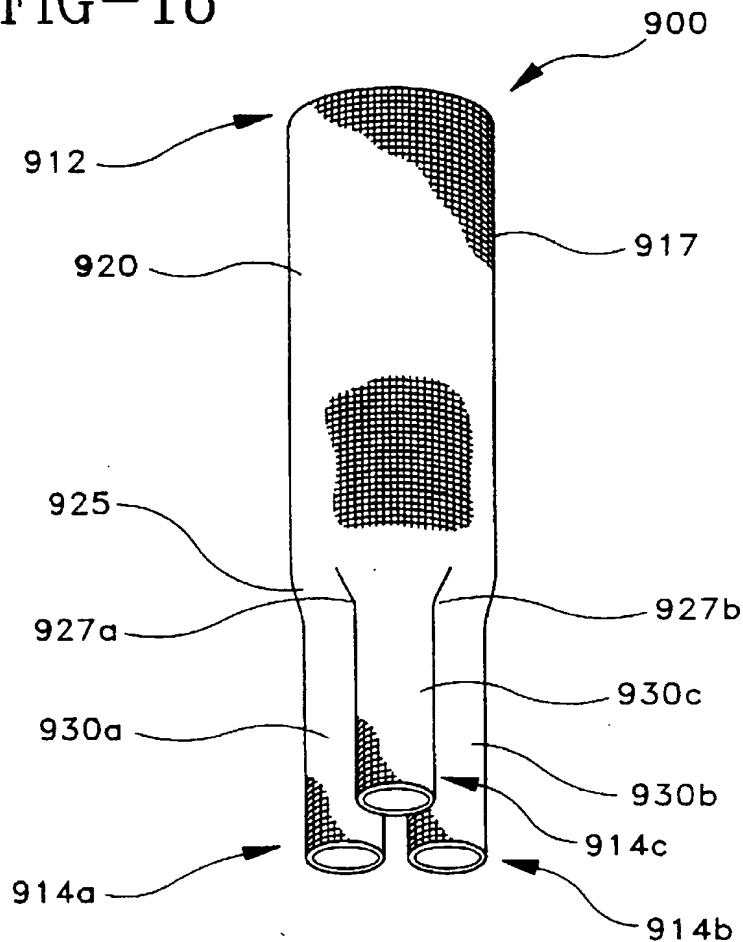


Figure 18 of NUNEZ, reproduced below, and column 13, line 62 through column 14, line 4 disclose a conduit 900 having a main portion 920 and smaller portions 930a, 930b and 930c. However, the smaller portions constitute a second end of the conduit. NUNEZ does not disclose a main conduit having first and second ends with a plurality of smaller conduits between the first and second ends as recited.

FIG-18



As this reference does not disclose that which is recited, the anticipation rejection is not viable. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection are respectfully requested.

Claim 6 was rejected as unpatentable over NUNEZ. That rejection is respectfully traversed.

Claim 6 depends from claim 1 and is believed patentable over NUNEZ at least for depending from an allowable independent claim.

Claim 7 was rejected as unpatentable over NUNEZ in view of GREENHALGH U.S. Patent Application 2002/0058992. That rejection is respectfully traversed.

GREENHALGH is only cited for the disclosure of a biocompatible material. GREENHALGH does not disclose or suggest what is recited in claim 1. As set forth above, NUNEZ does not disclose what is recited in claim 1. Since claim 7 depends from claim 1 and further defines the invention, the proposed combination of references would not have rendered obvious claim 7.

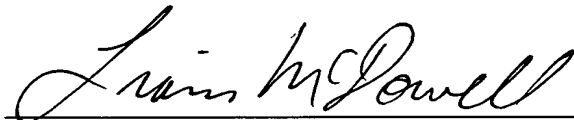
New claim 8 recites a first conduit, plural second conduits connected to the first conduit having a smaller diameter than the first conduit and a third conduit connected to the plural second conduits at a side opposite the first conduit, the third conduit having a diameter that is the same as the first conduit. The analysis above regarding claim 1 is equally applicable to claim 8. Accordingly, claim 8 is also believed patentable over the cited prior art.

In view of the present amendment and foregoing remarks, it is believed that the present application has been placed in condition for allowance. Reconsideration and allowance are respectfully requested.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 25-0120 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. § 1.16 or under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17.

Respectfully submitted,

YOUNG & THOMPSON

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Liam McDowell", written in black ink.

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APPENDIX:

The Appendix includes the following items:

- a replacement Abstract of the Disclosure
- a Replacement Sheet for Figures 1 and 2 of the drawings